

## Background

The National 4-H *Engaging Youth, Serving Community (EYSC)* project helps youth and adults from rural communities identify social, cultural, economic or environmental issues affecting us and to develop and implement action plans to resolve them.

EYSC youth participate with adults in experiences that develop their life and leadership skills, improve their understanding of socio-economic and cultural diversity, and give them a sense of belonging, purpose and involvement in the success of helping solve issues in their communities.



Through the EYSC project, 4-H youth development programs work with community partners to directly serve at least 6,500 youth and adults in 65 rural communities nationwide.

"The leadership group was praised and received awards for their hard-work and amazing organizational and effectiveness in their endeavors. Friendships and liaisons were formed that were not there before the project. This was between youth and adults, community organizations, and other students."

- Adult Leader, Barton County

**Visit the EYSC program website for more information:**

<http://www.4-h.org/youth-development-programs/citizenship-youth-engagement/community-action/rural-youth/>

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UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI  
**Extension**

National 4-H

*Engaging Youth, Serving*

 *Community Project*



**Missouri 4-H  
Homegrown  
Community  
Leaders Program  
(MOHOCOLA)**



## The Vision

Missouri has joined 10 other states participating in the National 4-H *Engaging Youth, Serving Community Project*, sponsored by National Institute of Food and Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Missouri 4-H Homegrown Community Leaders Program (MOHOCOLA) aims to provide an array of leadership development opportunities engaging rural youth in their own development, as well as the development of their communities.



*"Food is a basic need that has to be met before students can focus on learning. If we don't help them, who will?"*

-Dade County Core Team Youth Members (Brown Bag Buddies Project)



## The Program

The program is partnering with three rural counties (5 communities) in Missouri to construct youth in governance models specific to their communities. Communities will create a pipeline for rural youth leadership development in which youth will gain skills in:

- Leadership
- Action planning
- Community decision-making
- Long-term goal setting
- Preparation for college
- Skills for hometown civic and entrepreneurial leadership

## Impact

Over two to five years, youth-adult teams from each community will impact a single public issue they identify, creating a ripple effect of continuing discovery, learning, and dissemination.

At the end of five years, the project envisions rural communities with civic infrastructure in place to support a growing number of young leaders going to college with strong ties to their communities and entrepreneurial aspirations leading them back home.

## Missouri Projects

Rural communities who are developing national demonstration projects for youth in governance include:

- Barton County (Lamar)
- Dade County (Greenfield)
- Oregon County (Alton/Thayer/Couch)

## Community Partners

- MU Extension and 4-H
- FFA and Scouts
- Schools
- Local businesses
- City and county officials
- Civic organizations
- Churches
- Parents and family members

